

A FAWCETT MOVIE COMIC NO. 7

"ROCKY" LANE IN
**GUNMEN OF
ABILENE**

10¢



A REPUBLIC PICTURES' FAMOUS WESTERN STARRING
ALLAN "ROCKY" LANE AND HIS STALLION BLACK JACK



**DANGER! ACTION! MYSTERY! YOU'LL FIND THEM ALL
IN THE BIG REPUBLIC PICTURE "GUNMEN OF ABILENE"**



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GUNMEN OF ABILENE

starring

ALLAN "ROCKY" LANE

And His Stallion BLACK JACK

with

EDDY WALLER ROY BARGROFT DONNA HAMILTON

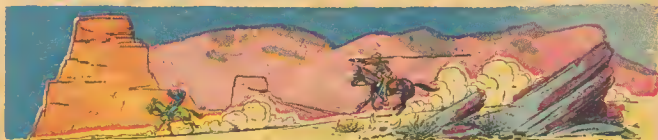
Directed by Fred C. Brannon

written by M. Coates Webster

Associate Producer Gordon Kay

An Adaptation of

A REPUBLIC PICTURE



Gunmen of Abilene

PEACE had fled Blue Valley and terror stalked its streets.

The whine of owlhoot lead formed a symphony of hate and swift, cruel death answered those who dared oppose it. Then, when all seemed lost to law and order, *Rocky Lane* slapped leather and fearlessly galloped into town. Danger rode beside him as his six guns barked defiance to *The Gunmen of Abilene!*



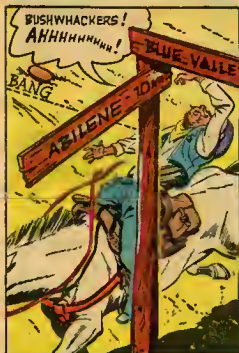
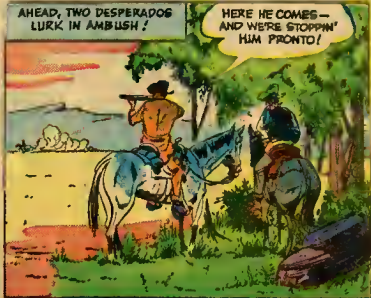
A LONE HORSEMAN GALLOPS SWIFTLY ACROSS THE WIDE WESTERN HIGHLANDS, BENT ON AN IMPORTANT MISSION!

GOT TO GIT TO ABILENE FAST! GIDDAP!



AHEAD, TWO DESPERADOS LURK IN AMBUSH!

HERE HE COMES — AND WE'RE STOPPIN' HIM PRONTO!



BUSHWHACKERS! AHHHHHHHHH!

RECKON HE'S FINISHED! TAKE THAT POUCH, TODD!



'HUH? NOTHIN' BUT ROCKS AND DIRT!

YEH, BUT HENRY TURNER — PROMISED US A LOTTA MONEY FOR THIS JOB WHEN WE GIT TO BLUE VALLEY!



MEANWHILE, IN BLUE VALLEY, SHERIFF NUGGET CLARK ENTERTAINS A GUEST.

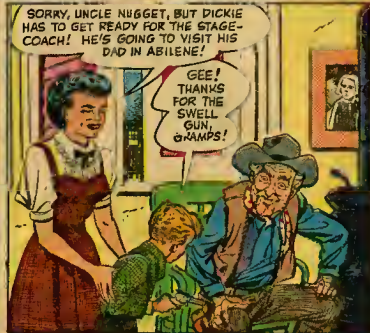
THERE I WAS, DICKIE, IN AN AWFUL FIX! MUST HAVE BEEN FIFTEEN OR TWENTY OUTLAWS FACIN' ME! BUT I GOT THE DROP ON 'EM BAREHANDED AND CAPTURED THE HULL DANG GANG!

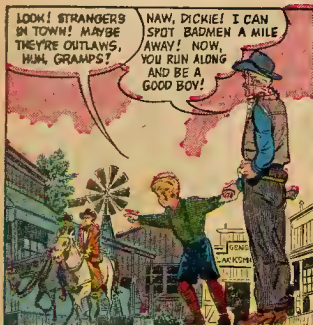
GEE!



SORRY, UNCLE NUGGET, BUT DICKIE HAS TO GET READY FOR THE STAGE-COACH! HE'S GOING TO VISIT HIS DAD IN ABILENE!

GEE! THANKS FOR THE SWELL GUN, UNCLE!





SAM CONDIT WAS A PROSPECTOR AND I GRUBSTAKED HIM! HE STUMBLED ON A NEW GOLD VEIN ... RIGHT HERE! AND HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO ABILENE TO HAVE THOSE ORE SAMPLES ASSAYED! WE KNEW IT WAS A RICH STRIKE!

SO YOU CALLED ME IN FROM ABILENE TO BUSHWHACK HIM! NOW THE STRIKE IS YOURS--AND MINE! PRETTY SMART, TURNER!

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE! SAM FIGURED OUT THAT THE NEW VEIN RUNS UNDER THE TOWN OF BLUE VALLEY! SO THE TOWNS-PEOPLE OWN THE GOLD--UNLESS WE FIND A WAY TO DRIVE THEM OUT! THAT'S YOUR JOB!

I GET IT! THE REST OF MY GANG'S IN THE HILLS! WE'LL TURN THE TOWN UPSIDE DOWN...! STARTING NOW!

RIGHT, FALLON! THAT'S WHY I HIRED YOU! DRIVE EVERYBODY OUT OF BLUE VALLEY! THEN THIS NEW GOLD STRIKE WILL BE OURS! GET TO WORK!



AND SO, A REIGN OF TERROR STRIKES QUIET BLUE VALLEY, WITH BRINK FALLON'S RUTHLESS GANG RIDING DAY AND NIGHT, PLUNDERING AND PILLAGING!

YAAAAAA!

YIP, YIP, YAYVVV!

BURN! ROB! SHOOT! KILL! WE'LL DO A BETTER JOB ON BLUE VALLEY THAN ANY TORNADO!

YIMM!

THE ALARMED TOWNSPEOPLE FINALLY HOLD A GRIM MEETING AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE!

SHERIFF NUGGET NEVER BRINGS THEM IN!

HE'S TOO OLD FOR THE JOB!

WE HAVE TO GET A NEW MAN TO HANDLE THIS!

SHERIFF'S OFFICE



NUGGET'S NIECE, MARY CLARK, IS UNABLE TO STEM THE HUE AND CRY, EVEN WITH THE HELP OF HER FRIENDS, DOCTOR JOHNSON, AND HIS SON, TIM!

POOR UNCLE NUGGET! HE'S TRYING HIS BEST! MUST HE BE REPLACED BY A NEW MAN?

I'M AFRAID SO, MARY! THEY WON'T LISTEN TO ME, OR GIVE NUGGET TIME! THEY WANT A NEW MAN RIGHT AWAY!



SO I'LL HAVE TO GO TO ABILENE AND ASK FOR HELP! I HAVE NO CHOICE!

THERE, THERE, MARY! DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD!

OH, TIM! POOR UNCLE NUGGET, WHEN HE HEARS THE NEWS... SOB!



TWO DAYS LATER, THE STAGECOACH RETURNS FROM ABILENE WITH DR. JOHNSON, DICKIE, AND HIS FATHER, BILL HARPER...

I HOPE IT'S SAFE BRINGING DICKIE BACK TO BLUE VALLEY! WILL THAT NEW MARSHAL STOP THE OUTLAW GANG? WHO IS HE?

A UNITED STATES DEPUTY MARSHAL CALLED ROCKY LANE! ONE OF THEIR BEST MEN, THEY SAY! HE'S RIDING TO TOWN BY HIMSELF!



AND, NEARBY...

WE'VE GOT OUR JOB CUT OUT FOR US, BLACK JACK! WHY IS A SMALL PEACEFUL TOWN LIKE BLUE VALLEY SUDDENLY BEING PLUNDERED? WHAT'S BEHIND IT?



SUDDENLY...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... SHOTS! MUST BE AN ATTACK ON THE STAGECOACH AHEAD! AMBLE, BLACK JACK!



AHEAD, BRINK FALLON STRIKES AGAIN!

THE NEW MARSHAL'S PROBABLY
ON THE COACH!
RIDDLE IT!



BUT...

HEY! TOOK US BY
SURPRISE! HIGH-TAIL
IT!



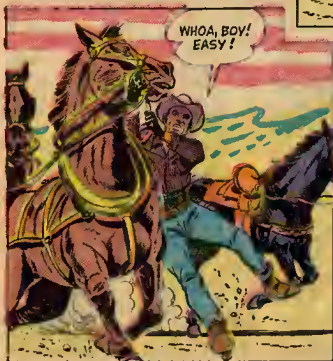
CAN'T CHASE THOSE
VARMINTS! THE
STAGECOACH
HORSES ARE
RUNNING
WILD!



I'LL CHECK
THE LEAD
HORSE!



WHOA, BOY!
EASY!

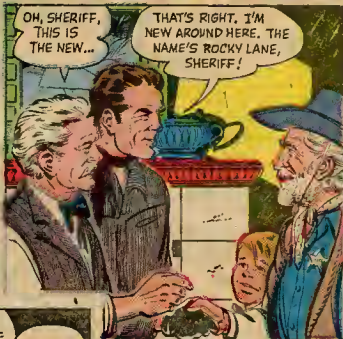
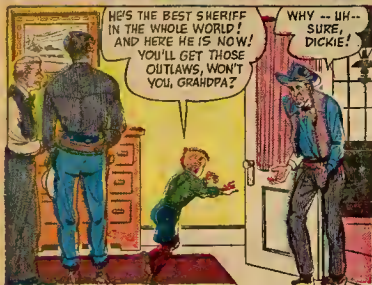
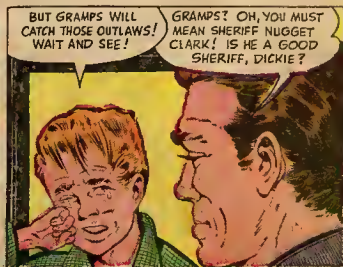
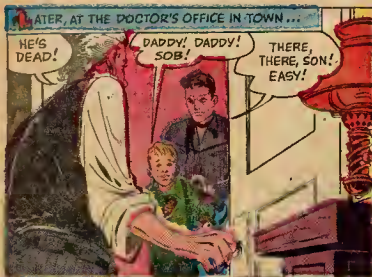


IS HARPER HIT BAD,
DR. JOHNSON?

I'M AFRAID SO! WE
MUST GET HIM TO
MY OFFICE IN
TOWN -- FAST!

DAD!...
SOB...







KEEP MY BADGE AND PAPERS FOR ME, DOCTOR, SO NUGGET WON'T FIND OUT I'M A MARSHAL!

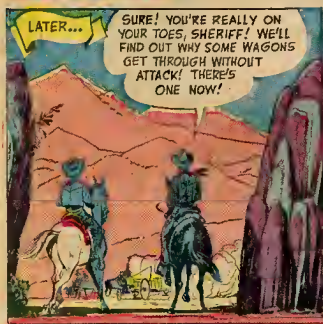
I... I OVERHEARD! BUT I'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET, TOO! IT'S A WONDERFUL THING YOU'RE DOING FOR MY UNCLE!

AND SOON... ALL RIGHT, ROCKY LANE, YOU'RE MY DEPUTY NOW! FIRST THING FOR US TO DO IS CATCH THEM MURDERING COYOTES!

RIGHT, SHERIFF! DR. JOHNSON SAID MANY FREIGHT WAGONS WERE ATTACKED-- BUT OTHERS GOT THROUGH SAFELY! WHY?

YEH-- UH-- WHY DO SOME WAGONS GET THROUGH?

YOU HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD, SHERIFF! LET'S CHECK-- NOW!



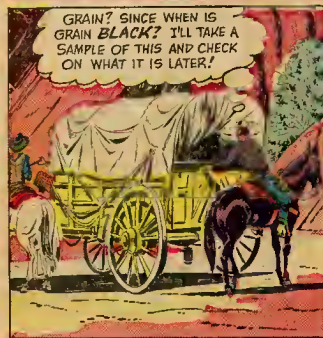
LATER...

SURE! YOU'RE REALLY ON YOUR TOES, SHERIFF! WE'LL FIND OUT WHY SOME WAGONS GET THROUGH WITHOUT ATTACK! THERE'S ONE NOW!

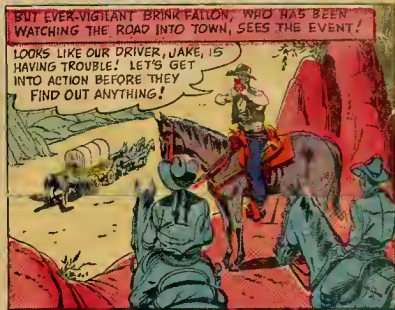


STOP, YOU! WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING?

GRAIN -- IF IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS!

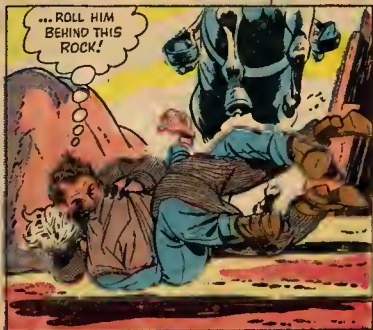
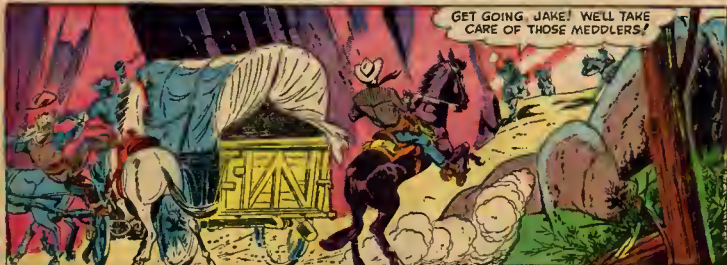


GRAIN? SINCE WHEN IS GRAIN **BLACK**? I'LL TAKE A SAMPLE OF THIS AND CHECK ON WHAT IT IS LATER!

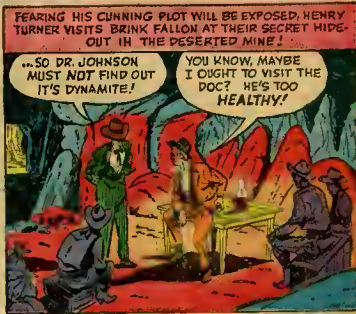


BUT EVER-VIGILANT BRINK FALLON, WHO HAS BEEN WATCHING THE ROAD INTO TOWN, SEES THE EVENT!

LOOKS LIKE OUR DRIVER, JAKE, IS HAVING TROUBLE! LET'S GET INTO ACTION BEFORE THEY FIND OUT ANYTHING!



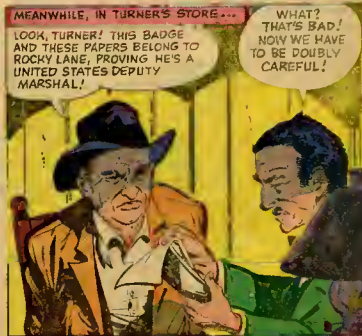
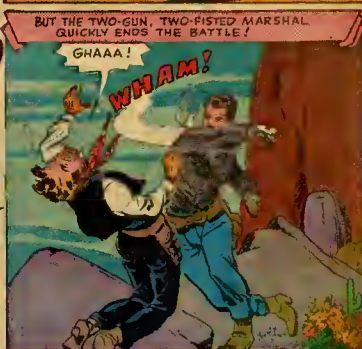
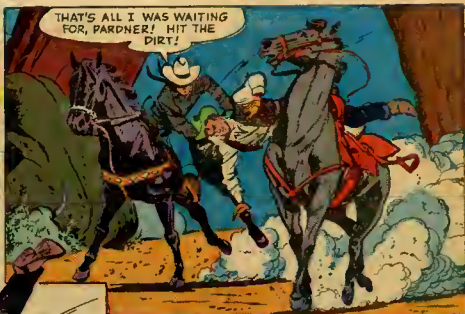
GUNMEN OF ABILENE



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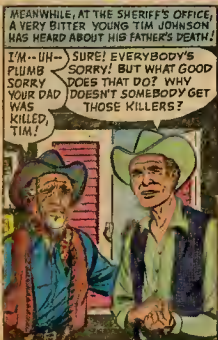


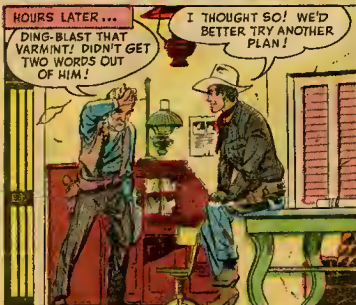
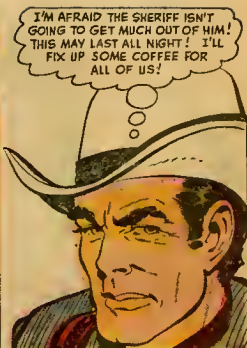
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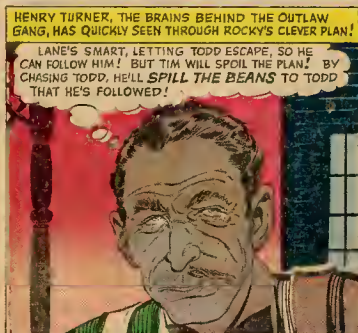
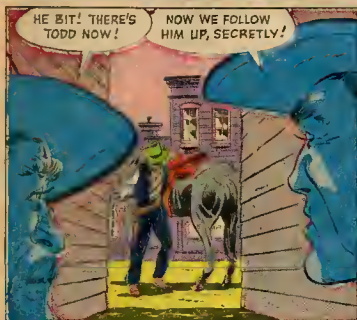


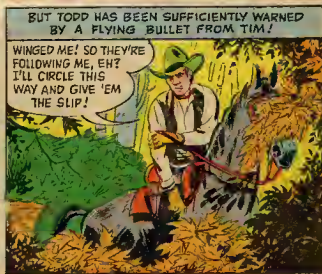
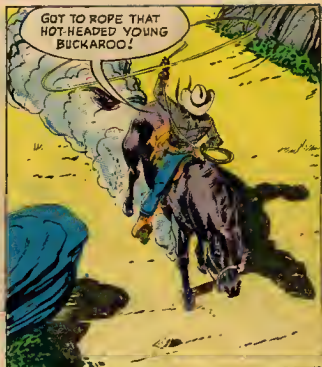
LOOK, TURNER! THIS BADGE AND THESE PAPERS BELONG TO ROCKY LANE, PROVING HE'S A UNITED STATES DEPUTY MARSHAL!

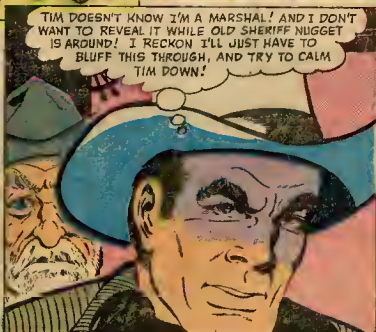
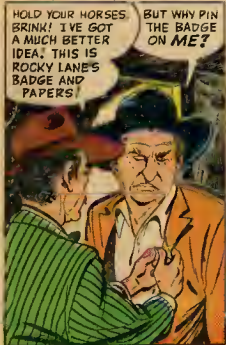
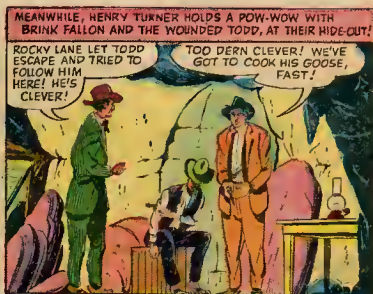
GUNMEN OF ABILENE



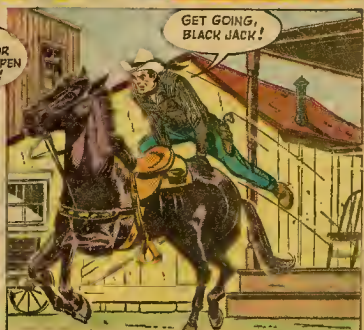
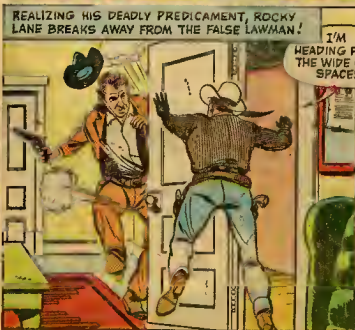
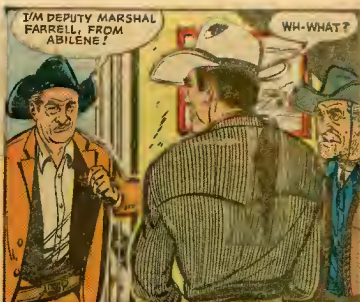








GUNMEN OF ABILENE





THAT NIGHT, IN DOCTOR JOHNSON'S HOME, WHERE LITTLE DICKIE HAS BEEN STAYING SINCE THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER...

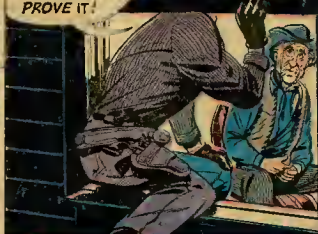
YES, DICKIE, I'M GOING AWAY! YOU SEE, NOBODY WANTS ME NO MORE. I'M AN OLD HAS-BEEN, I RECKON! THEY GOT A NEW MARSHAL AND I'M KICKED OUT!

NO, GRAMPS! DON'T GO! YOU'RE THE BEST SHERIFF IN THE WHOLE WORLD!



I SECOND THE MOTION, NUGGET. YOU'RE THE BEST SHERIFF THERE IS! JUST STAY AND PROVE IT!

ROCKY LANE!



MIGHTY NICE OF YOU, ROCKY! BUT THAT NEW MARSHAL TOOK MY PLACE AND ...

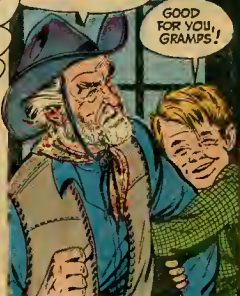
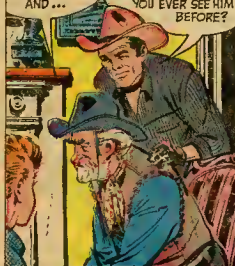
HE'S NO MARSHAL, NUGGET! TAKE MY WORD FOR IT! IN FACT, HE MUST BE AN OUTLAW! DID YOU EVER SEE HIM BEFORE?

WAIT! I DID SEE HIM, WEEKS AGO! HE RODE INTO TOWN WITH TODD AND ASKED FOR HENRY TURNER'S PLACE!

TURNER? COULD HE BE IN CANOOTS WITH THEM? WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT! SHERIFF, NOW YOU HAVE TO STAY TO HELP SOLVE THIS MYSTERY!

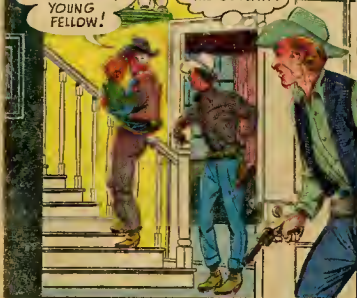
DAD-BLAST IT! I'LL STAY AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

GOOD FOR YOU, GRAMPS!



NOW YOU GET TO BED, YOUNG FELLOW!

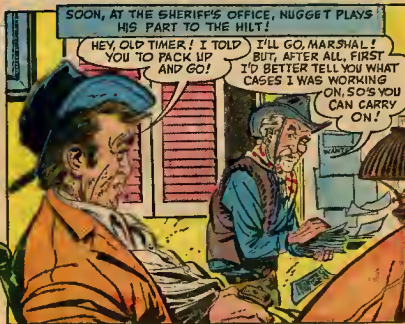
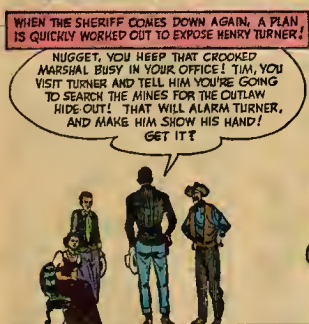
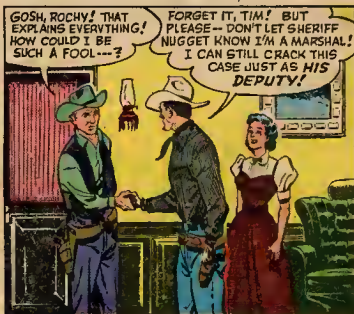
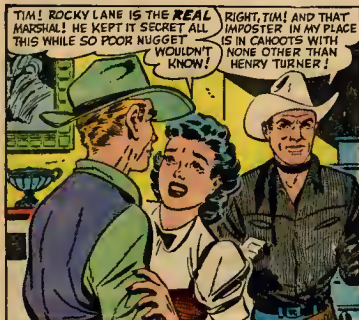
ROCKY LANE, THE OUTLAW!



GRAB SKY! I'M TURNING YOU OVER TO THE NEW MARSHAL!

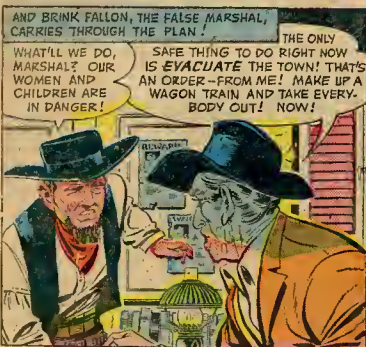
TIM! TIM, YOU IDIOT!





GUNMEN OF ABILENE





PERFECT! THEY'RE ALL LEAVING TOWN! AND THEY'LL NEVER COME BACK, NEITHER! I WOULDN'T BE A BIT SURPRISED IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THAT WAGON TRAIN-- IN THE HILLS!



YOU JOIN THE WAGON TRAIN, WHILE I GO LOOK FOR ROCKY IN THE MINES!



MEANWHILE, NUGGET AND TIM ARE BEWILDERED BY THE SUDDEN TURN OF EVENTS!

SOMETHING WENT WRONG! ROCKY DIDN'T COME BACK! WHAT'LL WE DO?

TIM, YOU GOTTA TAKE MARY AND DICKIE OUT OF TOWN, TOO!



GOSH ALL HEMLOCK! NARY A SIGN OF NOBODY! THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF CONCEALED MINE SHAFT! BUT I CAN'T FIND IT! WAIT -- WHAT'S THAT--?



SHORT!
SHORT!

IT'S BLACK JACK, ROCKY'S HORSE! SEEMS LIKE HE'S JUST BEGGING ME TO FOLLOW HIM!



BY GOLLY! HE'S SHOWING ME THIS HIDDEN SHAFT! ROCKY LANE MUST BE IN THERE! THAT HOSS IS ALMOST HUMAN!

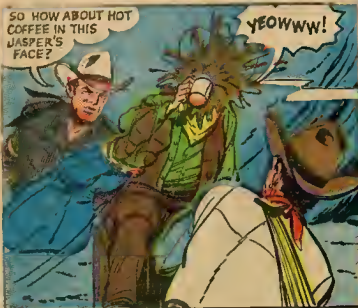


PSST!

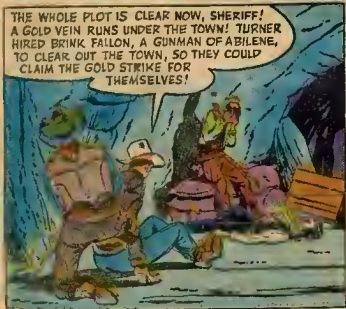
THE SHERIFF! BUT HE'S FACING TWO GUNMEN! GOT TO EVEN THE ODDS FOR HIM BEFORE HE RUSHES IN!



SO HOW ABOUT HOT COFFEE IN THIS JASPER'S FACE?

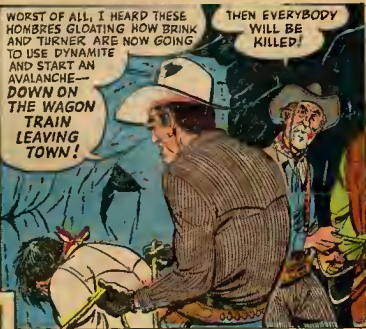


THE WHOLE PLOT IS CLEAR NOW, SHERIFF! A GOLD VEIN RUNS UNDER THE TOWN! TURNER HIRED BRINK FALLON, A GUNMAN OF ABILENE, TO CLEAR OUT THE TOWN, SO THEY COULD CLAIM THE GOLD STRIKE FOR THEMSELVES!



WORST OF ALL, I HEARD THESE HOMBRES GLOATING HOW BRINK AND TURNER ARE NOW GOING TO USE DYNAMITE AND START AN AVALANCHE—
DOWN ON THE WAGON TRAIN LEAVING TOWN!

THEN EVERYBODY WILL BE KILLED!

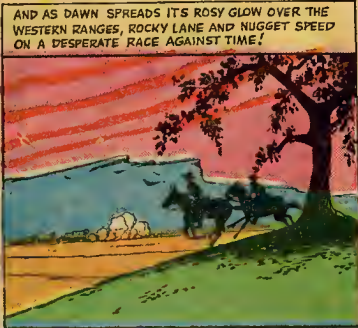


EXACTLY! WITH THE AVALANCHE EXPLAINED AWAY AS AN ACCIDENT, BRINK AND TURNER COULD CLAIM THE GOLD STRIKE AND BE IN THE CLEAR!

WHAT A LOW-DOWN, SNAKE-IN-THE GRASS SCHEME! WE GOTTA STOP IT!

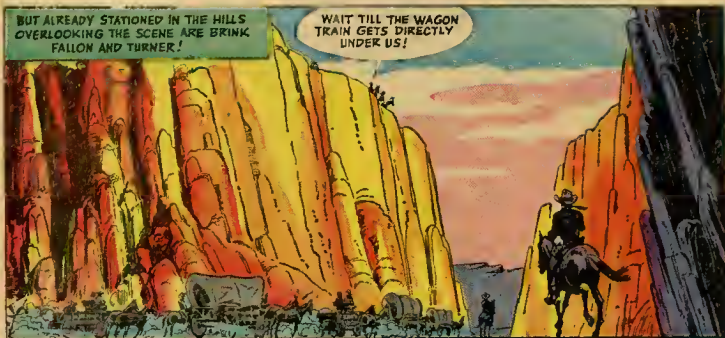


AND AS DAWN SPREADS ITS ROSY GLOW OVER THE WESTERN RANGES, ROCKY LANE AND NUGGET SPEED ON A DESPERATE RACE AGAINST TIME!



BUT ALREADY STATIONED IN THE HILLS
OVERLOOKING THE SCENE ARE BRINK
FALLON AND TURNER!

WAIT TILL THE WAGON
TRAIN GETS DIRECTLY
UNDER US!



YEH! THEN I LIGHT THIS
DYNAMITE AND BLOW HALF
A MOUNTAIN SIDE
DOWN ON 'EM!

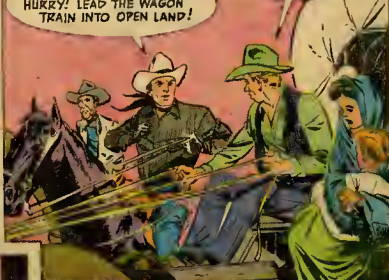
THEN WE GO BACK TO
THE EMPTY TOWN AND
CLAIM THE WHOLE GOLD
STRIKE FOR OURSELVES!
IT'S PERFECT!



BUT ROCKY LANE REACHES THE
LEADING WAGON, DRIVEN BY TIM!

TIM! TURN OFF THE ROAD!
HURRY! LEAD THE WAGON
TRAIN INTO OPEN LAND!

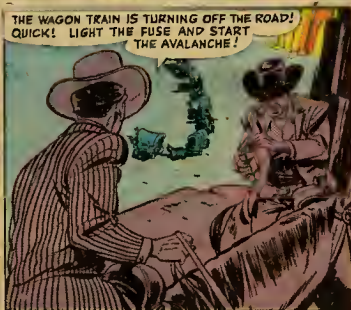
WHAT?
BUT
WHY?

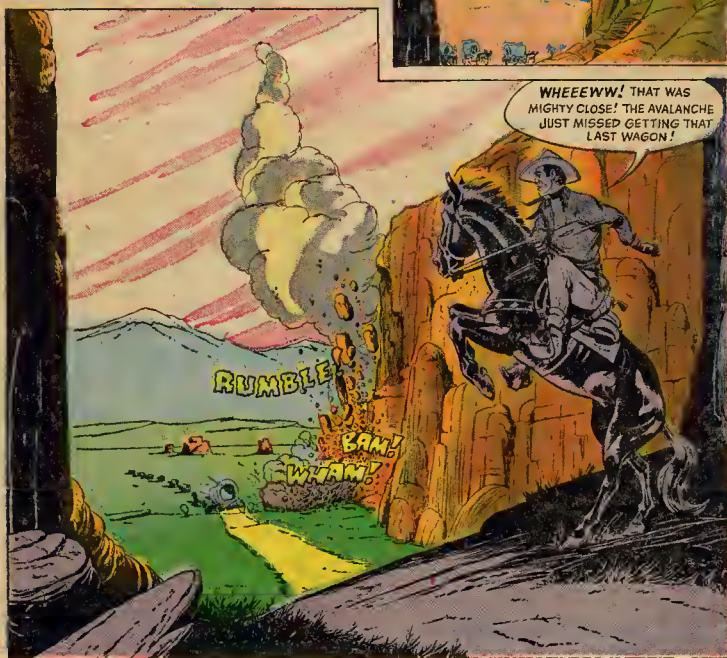


NO TIME TO EXPLAIN!
JUST FOLLOW THE SHERIFF!
HE'LL LEAD YOU TO
OPEN LAND!

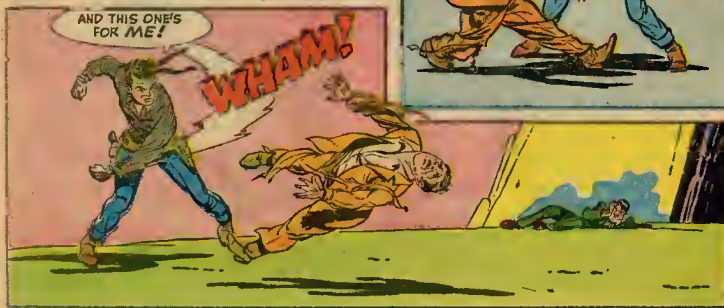


THE WAGON TRAIN IS TURNING OFF THE ROAD!
QUICK! LIGHT THE FUSE AND START
THE AVALANCHE!









NOW IT'S
YOUR
TURN,
TURNER!

YOU WON'T MANHANDLE ME,
LANE! I'M GOING TO BLOW
YOU TO SMITHEREENS
WITH THIS DYNAMITE!



BUT THERE IS NO EARTHLY HELP FOR THE SCHEMING
STOREKEEPER AS HE PLUNGES TO HIS DOOM!

EEEEAAAAA!

LOOK OUT!
HE'S COMING
STRAIGHT
DOWN AT
US!



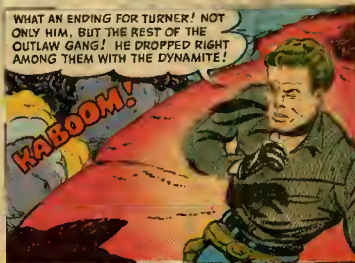
LOOK OUT! THE EDGE OF
THE CLIFF IS CRUMBLING
UNDER YOU ---!

WHAT--?
HELP!



WHAT AN ENDING FOR TURNER! NOT
ONLY HIM, BUT THE REST OF THE
OUTLAW GANG! HE DROPPED RIGHT
AMONG THEM WITH THE DYNAMITE!

KABOOM!



LATER, AS PEACE ONCE MORE REIGNS...

ONLY GOT ONE PRISONER
FOR YOU, SHERIFF! RECKON
YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE REST!

SON, YOU SURE DID
A JOB OF WORK! NOW
THE PEOPLE CAN ALL
GO BACK TO TOWN,
SAFE AND
SOUND!



LATER, AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE...

WELL, YOU'RE SHERIFF AGAIN, NUGGET! AND I CONSIDER IT AN HONOR THAT I WAS YOUR DEPUTY FOR A WHILE! THE GOLD STRIKE BELONGS TO THE TOWN NOW!



MY JOB'S DONE, SO I'LL BE RUNNING ALONG NOW...EH?

WAIT, SON!



YOU FORGOT THESE, ROCKY! I THINK YOU'LL BE NEEDING THEM!

MY MARSHAL'S BADGE AND PAPERS! THEN YOU KNOW NOW -- UH -- GOSH, I -- I HARDLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY -- UH...



DON'T SAY NOTHING, SON! YOU DON'T HAVE TO! ALL I GOT TO SAY IS YOU'RE THE DAD-BLASTED, DING-DONGDEST SQUARE-SHOOTER I EVER MET! AND I'M PROUD TO SHAKE YOUR HAND -- MARSHAL!

THANKS!



WELL, I'LL BE RAMBLING ALONG! PLEASED TO HAVE KNOWN YOU!



GOODBYE, ROCKY!

NOW, TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY, GRAMPS! TELL ME HOW YOU LICKED THE WHOLE OUTLAW GANG AND ...

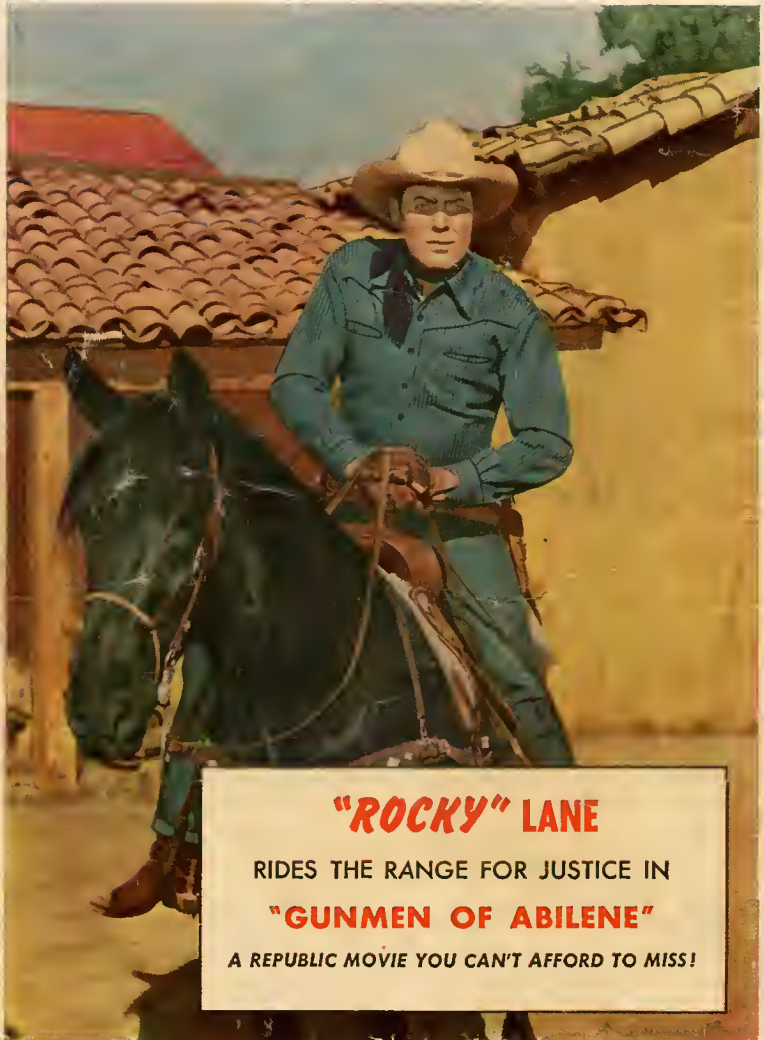
WHOA, DICKIE! I'LL TELL YOU A STORY, ALL RIGHT! BUT IT'S GOING TO BE A STORY ABOUT ROCKY LANE, NOT ME! HE'S THE DOGGONDEST BEST MARSHAL IN THE WHOLE WORLD!





"ROCKY" LANE ENCOUNTERS HOSTILE GUNS AND THE STRANGEST ENIGMA
OF HIS CAREER IN REPUBLIC PICTURES' **"GUNMEN OF ABILENE"**





"ROCKY" LANE

RIDES THE RANGE FOR JUSTICE IN

"GUNMEN OF ABILENE"

A REPUBLIC MOVIE YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS!